**IT Applications Unit 3, AOS 1, Online Communities**

**Complete the following, from Chapter 2, pgs, 44 – 51**

**ONLINE COMMUNITIES**

1. **Define an online community?**

An online community is an online space where groups of people share words and ideas using web based technology.

**TYPES OF ONLINE COMMUNITIES:**

**Social networks and communities**

1. **Describe the nature of a social networking site.**

A social networking site is a site that encourages members of its online community to share their interests, stories, thoughts, photos and videos with other members of the community.

1. **List examples of these sites.**

* Facebook
* Twitter
* MySpace

1. **What is the primary purpose of social networking sites?**

The primary objective of social networking sites is socialising.

1. **Is there governance over these sites and do they add “new” content to the internet?**

There is no real governance over these social networking sites but there are regulations of content posted and policies that discourage posting of illegal content. Most of the general content does not add to the content of the internet.

**Personal Profile Sites**

1. **Describe the nature of personal profile sites.**

Personal profile sites allow users to create a profile page about them that includes things like their friends on that social networking site, information, photos and videos.

1. **As a social networking tool what does Facebook enable users to do?**

Facebook allows users to set a level of privacy to limit who has access to which components of their profile.

1. **What type of tool is twitter?**

Twitter is a micro-blogging tool, just like a blog except for the post are normally smaller, more frequent and less detailed.

1. **What has been the strengths & weaknesses of twitter?**

Strengths:

* Fast broadcast of information, e.g. in floods and natural disasters.

Weaknesses:

* No moderation
* Wide community, anyone can follow you and see your information.

1. **What do social networking tools, such as Flickr and YouTube allow users to do?**

Social networking tools such as Flickr and YouTube allow users to upload, share and view various types of media content such as videos and photos.

**Issue:**

1. **How do social networking sites pose a legal and ethical minefield for employers?**

Now that there are unlimited opportunities to post information on social networking sites, employers are worried that their image might be damaged because of employees making personal revelations on social networking sites.

**Professional or work-based communities**

1. **Describe the characteristics of professional or work-based communities.**

Professional or work based communities generally have a very clear agreement. Websites, discussion areas and mailing lists are set up with a clear purpose and have rules on what information can be shared.

1. **How does membership differ in these communities to social networking sites?**

Membership on these sites is often closed, meaning that someone requires a membership and some sort of verification.

1. **How does the content differ from social networking sites?**

Professional sites have more of an information and purposed based content and discussion is kept on topic.

**Project and interest based communities**

1. **List the characteristics of these communities.**

* Open to the public
* Free membership
* Encourage the exchange of ideas
* Casual

1. **List an eg. of an interest based community.**

* Morris Motor Car Club.

1. **Visit the project based community,** [**http://handmadehelpsout.blogspot.com/**](http://handmadehelpsout.blogspot.com/) **as an eg. of one of these sites.**